

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 /104 W

----- 038213

P R 231640Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2249

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10641

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, ECIN, XF, IT.

SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS; EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; ROME MEETING  
OF EXPERTS.

REF DUBLIN 1056

SUMMARY: THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB "STEERING COMMITTEE  
OF EXPERTS" APPEARS TO HAVE SURMOUNTED A POLITICAL MINI-CRISIS,  
AND IS FAIRLY LAUNCHED INTO DEVELOPING SPECIFIC WORK PROGRAMS.  
END SUMMARY

1. REPERCUSSIONS, AMONG ARAB STATES, FROM THE JULY 10 EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON ARAB VIOLENCE IN JERUSALEM PUT THE FIRST  
MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB "STEERING COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS" IN  
JEOPARDY  
FOR SOME DAYS PRIOR TO ITS OPENING IN ROME ON JULY 22. FAST  
AND INTENSIVE BEHIND THE SCENES NEGOTIATIONS, NOTABLY INVOLVING  
THE ITALIAN HOSTS,  
PUT THE MEETING BACK ON TRACK VIA AGREED AND ACCEPTED FORMUL-  
ATIONS ON  
THE SUBJECT IN OPENING SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS. WITH THE POLITICAL  
CRUNCH BEHIND,  
THE "STEERING COMMITTEE" BROKE INTO SIX WORKING GROUPS PER (REFTEL)  
WHICH  
HAVE SETTLED DOWN TO ORGANIZING FUTURE WORK  
PROGRAMS. THE SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR ADJOURNMENT JULY 24 AND  
LIKELY WILL NOT RECONVENE UNTIL PERHAPS NOVEMBER.

2. ACCORDING TO FONMIN SOURCES, ARAB  
DELEGATIONS ARRIVING IN ROME OVER THE LAST WEEKEND WERE STILL DIS-  
GRUNTLED OVER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS CENSURE OF THE PLO. AS EARLY  
AS JULY 16 THE ARAB LEAGUE INQUIRED IN CAIRO AS TO WHETHER THE SUBJECT

WOULD BE RAISED BY THE EUROPEAN SIDE IN THE DIALOGUE, TO WHICH THE  
GOI AMBASSADOR RESPONDED ON INSTRUCTIONS WITH A FAST, FIRM  
NEGATIVE. REPORTEDLY THE MAHGREB COUNTRIES, ADDITIONALLY IRRITATED  
BY THE SLOW PACE OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC, CONSIDERED AN  
INITIATIVE TO CANCEL OR PUT OFF THE EXPERTS MEETING, BUT STARTED  
TOO  
LATE. HOWEVER, THE "PREVAILING SENTIMENT" ON BOTH SIDES WAS  
TO PROCEED,  
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ESPECIALLY SINCE TO DELAY OR EMBITTER THE DIALOGUE "WOULD  
HAVE SUITED ISREALI OBJECTIVES".

3. SINCE ARABS FELT  
UNABLE PUBLICALLY TO IGNORE EUROPARLIAMENTS  
REPROOF, PROBLEM BECAME ONE OF FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR-  
MULATIONS  
FOR SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS OF EACH SIDE AT OPENING SESSION.

HEART OF  
RELEVANT STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF ARAB DELEGATION (DAJANI, JORDAN)  
WAS

"THIS WILL(FOR EURO-ARAB COOPERATION) HAS BEEN PROVEN STRONGER  
THAN THE ATTEMPT OF SOME FORCES TO OBSTRUCT THE  
DIALOGUE. IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME (OF) THE TWO  
MEETINGS ACTIVE ATTEMPTS WERE DIRECTED AT EUROPE AND MANAGED  
TO CAST SOME SHADOWS ON THE DIALOGUE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT  
WE REFER TO THE DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 16  
JULY 1975 WHICH DENOUNCED THE FEDAIYEEN OPERATIONS IN  
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM AND WHICH RECORDED ITS GRAVE CONCERN  
OVER WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND CALLING  
UPON THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO EXPRESS ITS SENTIMENTS WITHIN  
THE DIALOGUE. WHILE WE HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU HAVE NOT  
RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S DECISION  
AND THAT YOU HAVE REAFFIRMED YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS  
CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE, AND WHILST WE ARE AWARE OF  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS DECISION, YET WE FEEL  
DUTY-BOUND TO SAY FRANKLY THAT THIS DECISION BY ITSELF AND  
AND IN ITS TIME CONTEXT HAS CAUSED DISMAY AMONGST THE  
ARAB PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR IT  
SIGNIFIED A DESIRE ON THE PART OF SOME CIRCLES TO PREJUDICE  
EUROPEAN ARAB RELATIONS."

4. CHAIRMAN OF EUROPEAN DELEGATION (AMB. REGARD, ITALY) MADE POLITE  
SUCCINCT REPLY, REITERATING THAT NINE REPUDIATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE  
AND ADHERE TO THEIR NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION RE A PEACEFUL SETT-  
LEMENT  
IN ME. HE ENDED BY RECALLING THAT EUROPEAN DELEGATION COMPRISED ONLY  
EXPERTS "TO CONSIDER IN DEPTH THE CONCRETE POSSIBILITIES OF EURO-  
ARAB  
COOPERATION."  
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5. AS OF COB JULY 22, THREE ARAB DELEGATIONS HAD NOT ARRIVED. LIBYANS  
HAD PLANNED ATTEND, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, BUT CHANGED THEIR  
MINDS; WHILE  
ALGERIANS AND IRAQIS WERE BELIEVED TO BE COMING.

6. PLO REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN ATTENDANCE BUT, ACCORDING TO THE  
"DUBLIN FORMULA", NOT IDENTIFIED AS TO ORGANIZATION OR NATIONALITY.  
EVERYONE, EXCEPT LOCAL PRESS, SEEMS BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO RESPECT  
THAT  
FORMULA. HOW LONG IT WILL HOLD IS ANOTHER QUESTION SINCE ARABS  
HAVE TOLD  
ITALIANS "DIRECTLY BUT CONFIDENTIALLY" THAT THEY ARE STILL ANXIOUS  
TO CONVENE THE GENERAL MIXED COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE  
AFFIXING

NATIONAL LABS. EUROPEAN SIDE SAID STILL DETERMINED TO AVOID THAT  
CUL-DE-SAC BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS.

7. THE WORKING GROUPS HAVE EACH NAMED TWO CO-CHAIRMEN AND TWO  
CO-RAPPORTEURS, AND ARE NOW DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF WORK.  
A COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN NAMED COMPRISING THE CHAIRMAN  
OF EACH SIDE,  
ALL WG CO-CHAIRMEN PLUS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL EL FARRA OF  
ARAB LEAGUE AND EC REP  
KLAUS MEYER.

8. COMMENT: GIVEN US INTEREST IN NOT SEEING ADDITIONAL STATUS  
OR PRESTIGE ATTRIBUTED TO PLO IN EURO-ARAB CONTEXT, BELIEVE  
EUROPEANS HANDLED  
MINI-CRISIS AS DEFTLY AS POSSIBLE. WHILE POLITICS COULD AGAIN  
INTERUDE,  
DEPENDING IN LARGE PART ON OUTSIDE DYNAMICS, THERE IS A FAIR  
CHANGE  
THAT WORK WILL PROCEED LARGELY ON TECHNICAL LEVEL. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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